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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

DATE: August 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of High School Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts Guidelines

During the months of May, June and July, committees representing the visual, performing, and applied arts met to establish guidelines for the 1-credit requirement in the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The draft document was placed on the department's website and commentary was provided from over 900 educators around the country.

The Academic Work Group, chaired by Aaron P. Dworkin, Sphinx Organization; Robert Root-Bernstein, Michigan State University; and Sharon L. Vasquez, Wayne State University met with representatives from a wide variety programs and services to develop the attached guidelines. In addition, commentary from the field was incorporated where appropriate. These guidelines bring together two communities – the visual and performing arts and the applied arts – to provide high schools with curriculum that is broad enough so as to allow for local flexibility yet specific enough so that the artistic/creative process is squarely in place.

The documents are available via the MDE website: www.michigan.gov/highschool, or on CD upon request.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the High School Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts Guidelines and direct the department to proceed with their dissemination.

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